

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
December 5, 2017
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on December 5th at 5:00pm in the Trustees' Room, 449 Broadway. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
 - William Barry
 - Patricia Payne
 - James Roosevelt
 - Nancy Woods
- Also present:*
- Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries

Minutes from the November 7th meeting were approved.

New Business

- **Naming Policy Discussion:**
 - Members of the working group were identified, including Ms. McCauley, Ms. Axelrod, Ms. Woods and Ms. Payne.
 - The Trustees defined broad policy guidelines for the working group to consider.
 - The Trustees are comfortable naming locations based on honoring exemplary service.

Action Item: Ms. Kosko to talk to Susan Flannery and/or Julie Roach about the naming of the Curious George Room.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to mail updated naming research to all Trustees.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to draft letter to City Council stating that the Naming Policy work is underway and will take time. The Trustees wish to honor Mr. Richard C. Rossi by offering to rename the Beech Room in honor of his exemplary service to the Library, as we honored Susan Flannery with the plaque on the staircase in the Main Library that says

“Susan M. Flannery
Director of Libraries
1993-2016

In celebration of more than twenty years of visionary leadership culminating in this award-winning building, we dedicate this staircase to Susan M. Flannery. Like this structure, her legacy lifts us up. We hold her commitment to outstanding public service at the core of our library's purpose: Welcoming to all, inspiring and innovative. Promoting literacy, opportunity, democracy and engagement in a community dedicated to inclusion and intellectual freedom.”

- **Strategic Plan Discussion:** Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to January.

- **Foundation/Friends Discussion:** Trustees discussed how the public struggles to distinguish between the groups, specifically when being asked for donations. (Should they give to one? The other? Or both?)
 - In general, the Friends operate on voluntary basis, providing on-the-ground, immediate support efforts, while the Foundation, with a small staff, takes on the large-scale fundraising effort.
 - The organizations should work together, with the Friends establishing a broad base across the community, and the Foundation cultivating a portion of that base.
 - The organizations should integrate across key activities/events.
- Action Item:** Ms. McCauley to bring group definitions to the next Trustees meeting to assess whether they accurately reflect the vision of each organization.

Library Events Update

- Ms. McCauley provided members of the Board with an update of some of CPL's successful recent events including *Storytime for Social Justice* series, *How We Elect our Cambridge Officials* panel, *Creative Aging* Art Exhibition & Reception, *Poetry Reading* series and the John Palfrey author event. She also spoke to the success of the NaNoWriMo activities recently hosted at the Library.

Upcoming Library Events

- Ms. McCauley notified members of the Board that the *Storytime for Social Justice* series continues with topics *Income Inequality & Homelessness* in December and *Gender Identity* in January.
- Ms. McCauley invited Trustees to attend Oliver Jeffers, children's author & artist, on December 7 at 6:30 in the Lecture Hall. She advised to come early, as we are anticipating a full house!
- Ms. McCauley requested Trustees to SAVE THE DATE for the 43rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr Day Celebration on Tuesday, January 16 at Central Square Branch at 6:30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary